

On 23 / 24 June 2006 PAN Germany, in co-operation with Centre for Sustainable Alternatives (CEPTA), conducted the seminar “Pesticide Residues in Food – Regulation, Monitoring, Policy”. The aim of the workshop was an exchange of expert information and experiences of NGO-action in order to strengthen capacity building of stakeholders concerning pesticide residues in food.

28 participants from Slovakia, the Czech Republic, Bulgaria, Hungary, Slovenia, Austria, and Germany attended the seminar who represented groups of the civil society (NGOs) and official bodies in Slovakia and the Czech Republic.

In the first session the new European legislation for setting maximum residue limits (MRLs) in foodstuff was introduced. A critical view was taken on pesticides risks and the main objective of the European legislation, consumer health protection especially the protection of vulnerable groups. The main topic of the second session was a detailed view on the official food monitoring system in Slovakia and the compilation of available monitoring data from the participating countries. Different approaches of NGO participation and activities on the legal and private sector to improve pesticide residue monitoring and to call for health food supply for consumers were highlighted in the third session.

The seminar was interpreted in English and Slovakian language. An optional field trip took place on Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> June. The field trip was directed to the fruit orchards in Vesele near Piestany and vineyards near Pezinok in the region of Small Carpathian Mountains. Participants and farmers discussed pros and cons of low-input farming and integrated pest management measures.

In this publication we provide the presentations made by the speakers of the seminar to all those who are interested but who have not been able to attend the seminar. English summaries are added to Power Point presentations in Slovakian language. The seminar report is available as CD-ROM version and online at PAN Germany websites at:

<http://www.pan-germany.org>

<http://www.pesticide-residues.org>